such panel. A "Round Table on School Education" has been set up under this Ministry and that has constituted a sub-committee to develop a framework for public private partnership for schools.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Standard of education in the country

†2542. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hon'ble Prime Minister has recently remarked that the standard of education in the country is far below the standard of education at international level; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) In a speech made at the convocation of Punjab University on November 3, 2009, the Prime Minister had remarked that a major problem faced is in the quality of higher education that our institutions impart. It was stated that most of these institution produce pass outs who are nowwhere near international standards.

(b) While there are several institutions of world class quality in India, the general standards of higher education requires improvement to match international standards. Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan aiming at improvement of quality through increased allocation for improvement of infrastructure in the existing higher and technical educational institutions and by way of setting up of new quality institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards, quality institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Schools for Planning and Architecture, establishment of 50 centres for training; and research in frontier areas of Science and Technology.

Quality of teaching in higher education is a matter of great concern. When the Pay Review Committee recommendations in respect of teachers in colleges and universities were taken up by the Central Government, the salaries and other allowances for teachers, higher than those for the Group "A" Civil Services, was agreed to by the Government on the condition that the eligibility conditions would be tightened and qualifications would be of a high order. The age of superannuation of teachers in higher education has also been increased from 62 years to 65 years. These steps would ensure that over time the best talent comes into the academic professions through a process of tightening entry and liberalizing pay and other incentives.